

In the specification:

Before paragraph [0001], insert the following subtitle:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Before paragraph [0005], insert the following subtitle:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Rewrite paragraph [0006] as follows:

This object is accomplished by the development of a ~~device according to claim 1~~ melting furnace having an electric or external heating system for storing melts and having a melt discharge outlet comprising a cooling device, characterised in that an instrument for mechanically removing plugs blocking the melt discharge outlet is arranged at the melt discharge outlet, the instrument for removing plugs being mounted at the side of the melt discharge outlet and not blocking the melt discharge outlet when in a rest position, and the instrument for removing the plugs can be moved in the plane perpendicular to the outflow direction of the melt and a method according to claim 12 for removing plugs which have formed on the melt discharge outlet and which are blocking the melt discharge outlet, characterised in that the plugs are removed by breaking- or knocking- or splitting-away with the aid of the instrument for removing plugs. ~~The subordinate claims 2 to 11 represent preferred embodiments of the device according to claim 1. Correspondingly, the subordinate claims 12 to 17 represent embodiments of the method according to claim 12.~~

Before paragraph [0007], insert the following subtitle:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Rewrite paragraph [0007] as follows:

Accordingly, an instrument (hereinafter referred to as a plug-remover) is provided for the mechanical removal of plugs which form as a result of solidification at the outflow of a container storing the melt. The solidification of the melt occurs because the melt discharge outlet includes a cooling device in one form or another. For example this cooling can take place in that the outflow is exposed to ambient temperatures. According to the invention, the plug-remover is ~~attached to~~

the melt discharge outlet mounted at the side of the melt discharge outlet and does not block the melt discharge outlet when in a rest position .

Rewrite paragraph [0010] as follows:

~~A preferred variant~~ An advantage of the invention is given in that the plug-remover pauses in a rest position or even end position before the removal process is carried out. In its end position the plug-remover does not block the discharge.